Guidelines for import of vessels in the country

4913. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has issued guidelines for import of all types of vessels in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines; and

(c) whether the indigenous industry is protected from the imported vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are as under:

(i) No prior technical clearance is required for vessels below 25 years of age, however, the same is required for vessels of and above 25 years of age.

(ii) No price reasonableness certificate is required for import of vessels.

(iii) Director General of Shipping [DG (S)] may grant permanent registration to the vessel without physical inspection on the basis of production of relevant documentary proof as per the guidelines laid down by the Director General of Shipping.

(iv) Director General of Shipping may issue detailed guidelines in respect in registration for compliance of statutory safety requirements, rectification of deficiency etc. by shipowners from time to time.

(c) No, Sir. The Exim Policy allows import of all types of ships without licence.

Allocation for Vocational Rehabilitation Centres

4914. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated for the 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) functioning in the country for mentally and physically retarded children are not adequate;

(b) if so, the total funds allocated and expenditure incurred on the VRCs during the last three years; and

(c) the fresh steps taken for physical, medical, socio-economic and psychological evolution of the children residing in these VRCs?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Adequate funds are allocated to Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) which provide rehabilitation assistance to persons with disabilities in the age group of 15-50 years. Out of total allocation of Rs. 24.47 crores for VRCs, an expenditure of Rs. 18.09 crore was incurred during the year 1999—2002. The new initiatives in this regard, *inter-alia*, include setting up of Skill Training Workshops, Rural Rehabilitation Extension Centres, at least one VRC in each State / Union Territory during Tenth Five Year Plan, mobile camps in rural areas, etc.

Atrocities against SCs and STs

4915. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of atrocities aginst persons belonging to SC and ST communities reported during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent such atrocities?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 as reported by the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations during, 1998, 1999 and 2000 are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) With a view to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations have been requested to implement provisions of the Act in letter and sprit. Financial assistance is being provided under the scheme for strengthening of administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons. Implementation of provisions of the Act is reviewed from time to time.